

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is in response to the Decision on Appeal, issued by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, mailed June 17, 2005. It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments to the claims further differentiate the claimed invention from the previously relied upon Ishikawa, U.S. Patent No. 5,600,455, currently also assigned to the assignee of the present application.

In view of the above cancellation of claims 7, 10, and 11, claims 4-6 and 9 are currently pending.

Claim 4 has been amended to correspond at least to the arrangement shown in Fig. 3 of the present application. Here, in FIG. 3, the "first slope" directed the incidence end face of the light guide plate is denoted by M1 and the "second slope" directed oppositely is denoted by M2.

As understood from Fig. 3, light emanating from the light guide plate is prevented from being scattered before traveling into the light control element because only the second slope defines a light diffusible surface.

Conventionally, if the first slope M1 defines a light diffusible surface, scattering occurs at the first slope M1 and the scattered light tends to be directed all directions, leading to an increased loss of light.

Conversely, amended independent claim 4 requires that scattered light be generated at the second slope, after being introduced into the light control element, with the result being that much of the scattered light can travel towards the light exiting surface of the light control element. Such an advantage and result has not been anticipated, and the proffered modification of Ishikawa similarly fails to disclose the same.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Preliminary Amendment,
please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By: 

Stephen T. Boughner
Registration No. 45,317

1201 New York Ave, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501